

Dyslexia Screening and Reading Intervention Services

Screening

Within thirty (30) calendar days, excluding holidays, of being committed to the Division of Youth Services (DYS), a youth shall have his/her reading proficiency level assessed and a dyslexia screening shall be delivered with fidelity, as defined in Ark. Code Ann. 6-41-602. If a juvenile fails the dyslexia screener, a BrainSpring Structures assessment will be administered to determine the most appropriate placement for services.

Services

If a reading assessment or the dyslexia assessment indicates that a youth is reading below the level of proficiency required to be a high-functioning reader, the youth shall be provided evidenced-based reading interventions via BrainSpring and/or The Science of Reading, as per the Arkansas Department of Education's compilation of appropriate intervention programs.

An intervention plan provided for a youth who is reading below the level of proficiency shall be administered with fidelity by a teacher who has been trained in The Science of Reading and/or BrainSpring Structures training. The teacher must have demonstrated proficient knowledge and skills to teach reading consistent with best practices as required under the Right to Read Act, Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-429.

Juveniles currently committed to DYS shall be:

- Provided with information that explains what dyslexia is in common and easy-to-understand language
- Offered and encouraged to submit to dyslexia screening
- Provided with dyslexia interventions with fidelity, as defined in Ark. Code Ann. 6-41-602, in the same manner as required for newly committed juveniles